

The house of Hoo-Hoo at the world's fair has been unconcatenated, as it were.

Baltimore has suppressed kissing in the public parks. Baltimore is still nervous about configurations.

And when Edward and William had finished their speli on peace the band struck up "Twat but a Dream."

The fellow who annoyed a monkey by giving him a lighted cigarette was lacking in brotherly consideration.

If you attend a "dawnce" in London, don't reverse, no matter how dizzy you get. It's exceedingly bad form.

Texas watermelons average one pound lighter this year. And once more the colored man gets it in the neck.

We are now getting around to the days when a man really feels more negligence than he looks—and that's a plenty.

Jan Kubelk has become the father of twins. We nominate him for vice-president of the Anti-Race Suicide association.

It is about time for Russia to receive another of those permissions to take her Black Sea fleet out through the Dardanelles.

A Japanese magazine has been started. This will give the Jap generals and admirals something to do after the war is over.

This plan of having opera singers' voices insured may contain a valuable hint. Why not have the nerves of the theater-goers insured?

Recipe for popular campaign speech: Write your speech out carefully, forget it, and when you face your audience proceed to ramble.

Everyone who goes away on a vacation this summer ought to strive to write in his diary every night, "One more laugh on uncle Russell Sage."

New York is having a tailors' strike, but in these days when it is possible to get along with ready-made crash suits it is not necessary to work.

The country will now proceed to absorb the \$5,000 college graduate with the same ease and readiness with which it assimilates the \$10 immigrant.

The man who was fined \$10 and costs for beating a horse because it could not pull a broken automobile deserved all he got. He was adding injury to insult.

In Kansas City it is considered disorderly conduct for a man and woman to kiss in public. This will have a tendency to discourage immigration to the Missouri burg.

One point appears to have been settled conclusively by the Russo-Japanese war. It is that a diet of rice does not spoil a nation's appetite or capacity for fighting.

A number of Wilkesbarre teachers who were held guilty of flirting have been dismissed. No wonder it is hard to find enough young women to take charge of all our schools.

A New York man, while eating his breakfast the other morning, found a diamond in a boiled egg. Unfortunately, however, nobody has been able to find the hen that laid the egg.

The Cleveland Plain Dealer regards Roosevelt and Fairbanks as a "disheartening combination for the campaign poets." Yes; but think how good that is for the rest of us.

War Correspondent Fuller got out of his dangerous position in Port Arthur by telling the literal truth. That's what comes of being brought up in the newspaper business.

In a cable dispatch from Santo Domingo, Consul General Maxwell informs the state department, in substance, that the revolution down there is taking its annual two weeks' summer vacation.

Now that a new counterfeit \$10 Buffalo note is announced, some people will examine carefully all the \$10 bills they have, and others will pass them out nonchalantly, taking good care not to look at them.

Mrs. Gilbert, the actress, who is now in her 83d year, announces that she will make a farewell tour next season. Owing to her late beginning she can hardly expect to break the farewell tour record.

Old Gent in Punch allows that if it weren't that Kuropatkin, the general of the tail soldiers, has the long name, while Kuroki, the general of the short soldiers, has the short name, he would never be able to remember which is which.

There is no widely extended prejudice, we apprehend, against the real elocutionist. The aggressive, persistent person who has been persuaded by admiring but injudicious friends that he or she is an elocutionist is the real terror.

# FARM ORCHARD AND GARDEN



CONDUCTED BY  
M. J. WRAGG

[Mr. Wragg invites contributions of any new ideas that readers of this department may wish to present, and would be pleased to answer correspondents desiring information on subjects discussed. Address: M. J. Wragg, Waukegan, Iowa.]

## WATER FOR PLANTS.

Our friend the scientist states that for land to do its best its water content should be steadily maintained to within from 40 to 50 per cent of saturation. Prof. King tells us that where this has been maintained by the application of the needed water their smallest yield was four tons of dry matter per acre, and the largest seventeen tons, and an average of over seven tons when twenty-two cases were tried. We all know that this is very much in excess of what most of us are doing. We also know that all plant food in the soil is soluble in water under certain conditions, and that all plant food (with perhaps one valuable exception, that of carbon) is taken into the plant through the moisture that is in the soil. This being the case, no matter how rich our soil may be, if it is perfectly dry, the plant has no means of getting hold of the plant food. The vegetable matter is made available through the millions of bacteria that are in the soil. Our flint corn takes 8,750 gallons per acre each day less moisture to bring it to perfection than any other crop we grow, using some 230 tons of water to grow one ton of dry matter; Dent corn 300, and other crops varying amounts, till we reach oats, which use from 500 to 700 tons. An apple tree, during the time it produces its fruit, will use 250 gallons per day, or on an acre, with the trees 35 feet apart, 8,750 gallons per day. Prof. King tells of four stalks of corn that used in thirteen days, as they were coming to tassel, 150.6 pounds of water, or nearly three pounds for each stalk per day. This gives us some idea of the importance which moisture has in the growth of plants.

It is a matter for congratulation that Mr. Luther Burbank, of California, originator of the potato that bears his name, has by no means abandoned the idea that further improvement in this indispensable article of food is possible. At present he is experimenting with from twenty thousand to thirty thousand seedlings and hybrids, having for his ultimate object the production of a potato that will be sweeter than the common one, will have more of the color of the flesh of the sweet potato and possess other superior qualities. Mr. Burbank's wonderful success in the past amounts to a guarantee that he will succeed in his present most laudable effort.

## TREE BLIGHT.

The disease common to apple and pear trees known as blight or fire blight, so destructive throughout the north central portion of the United States last summer, has been well known to horticulturists for nearly one hundred years. It is therefore not a new disease. It has been observed during this time that the disease appears as an epidemic at regular intervals. It was once thought that the outbreaks were periodic in five, ten or twenty year periods, but a study of the literature on the subject does not afford proof of this theory.

In 1878 Prof. T. J. Burrill of Illinois advanced the hypothesis that blight was caused by certain bacteria, which were always found in blighted tissues. This supposition was confirmed by subsequent experiments by different investigators.

Prof. T. C. Arthur has demonstrated by repeated experiments the presence of a specific form of bacteria which is always associated with blight. This particular form has been isolated and afterward transferred to healthy tissue, causing blight.

Be careful this year in harvest time and get the wheat and oats shocked up good. We don't know how much rain we may have before we get our threshing done. Some men can't shock wheat right. Maybe they'll make good hands on the binder. Wheat harvest doesn't last long on the average farm, but if you can see that a day longer will make better work, take it by all means.

## HORSE NOTES.

Do not forget that fly nets and muslin covers are due to these hard-working animal friends of ours during fly time.

It is the horse smooth at all gaits and that carries himself like a gentleman, and who is balanced at all rates of speed, that is coming in vogue.

Moderate work does not injure the mare or colt; in fact, it is beneficial, but judgment must be used.

Always speak to your horse when you go near him.

During the hot, dry weather of summer water the roots of the sweet peas liberally, being careful not to wet the vines. Do not be afraid of using too much water. If you wish vines to bloom freely do not allow any seed to form.

## SECURING THE HAY CROP.

There seems to be quite a diversity of opinion as to the best time or at what particular stage of its growth grass should be cut to make the best and most nutritious hay, some claiming from analysis made that the seed forming grasses should be cut while in bloom, while others from the same source of information claim that the seed should be formed before the grass should be cut, and there are still others who maintain that timothy especially should become ripe before being cut to obtain the best results. We prefer to begin cutting as soon as the timothy is in full bloom and pushing the work of harvesting the crop as rapidly as possible until the crop is secure. By so doing by the time the harvesting is completed the most of the farmers have hay put up in the condition advocated by all the different analytical tests, and some portion of the crop, if properly cured and stacked or protected from the elements, must be in first-class condition and of the proper feeding quality. As hay harvest comes in the busiest season of the year the farmer must use his best judgment as to the time of harvesting the crop, as his work at this time may be subject to conditions over which he has no control. The one thing he must do is to "make hay while the sun shines" and to push the work as rapidly as possible if he desires to have a good supply of feed upon which he can maintain his stock in a good healthy condition during the feeding season of the year.

The species of currant from which our cultivated varieties originated are probably native of northern Europe, as we do not find them mentioned by any of the old Greek and Roman writers who were generally so particular to name every fruit known in their day. The English name currant, or conans, as they were formerly called, was given them because of their resemblance to the little "Zante grape," which is called Corinth. The black, red and white currants, although known to the inhabitants of northern Europe for centuries, attracted but very little attention until within the past one hundred years. Turner, in 1557, does not name them in his list of cultivated fruits. Guarde of 1597, called the currant a "smooth-stemmed gooseberry."

## THE GREAT PREVALENCE OF SWEET CLOVER.

As one rides through the state he sees that the sweet clover is getting a strong foothold in our state. It grows in great profusion alongside the roads, in fence corners, along the ditches and in some of the pastures, in fact it is growing everywhere and is fast becoming a great pest. If feed be scarce in the pastures, cattle will eat it when it is coming up and is only a few inches high, but even then they prefer the other clovers and grasses, but after it gets any size, nothing will eat it. As big a nuisance as it is, it is one of the easiest weeds to kill. It is a biennial and goes to seed the second year, when the roots of the old plant die the same as do those of the red clover. All that is necessary to do to destroy it is to keep it mowed down two years and it is gone. Better have blue grass growing than the sweet clover which one sees now on every hand.

The great industrial combinations show the farmers the way to get all they deserve out of their farm products.

It is a pleasant task to record the fact that the farmers of the United States are gradually diversifying their farming, paying more attention to intensive methods of cultivation and preparing generally to grow more and better produce on less area. This tendency is visible everywhere, and it will be accelerated as our population increases from year to year, bringing our consumptive capacity up to our present productive capacity.

## THE RAPE PLANT AND CABBAGE WORMS.

It is said on good authority that a patch of rape sown near the cabbage rows will attract the millers which infest the growing cabbage plants, and thus save them from the ravages of those pests, the worms. Every garden should also be provided with a miller trap, made by hanging a lighted lantern at night over a tub or barrel, which is nearly full of water, with a gallon or two of kerosene oil added. The insects will congregate about the light in immense numbers and fall into the oil where they will be destroyed as they come in contact with the lantern globe.

We rarely think of cranberries except when turkey-time comes; and yet, in the United States there were last year more than twenty thousand acres devoted to the growing of cranberries, and the product was valued at a million and a quarter of dollars.

## TENT CATERPILLARS.

An Iowa reader asks us how to destroy the tent caterpillar, as they have defoliated his plum orchard.

"When tent caterpillars occur on small trees, they can be easily reached, and a good way of destroying them is to go over them in the spring of the year about the time the leaves are appearing, when the first signs of the nest will be noticed. At this time the worms may be easily removed with the nest and destroyed. Later on the same practice may be followed, but not quite so easily. Another remedy is to remove the eggs in the winter or early spring. These eggs are grouped together in a cylindrical cluster around the small twigs, and on a clear day may be easily distinguished when the twigs stand out against the sky, when these may be pruned off and burned. If none of this work has been done, or if in spite of it the worms are still abundant, the best remedy is to spray the foliage with Paris green at the rate of one pound to one hundred and fifty gallons of water and add to it one pound of lime. The foliage of plum trees is very liable to be burned by the Paris green mixture, and on this account every effort should be made to avoid such sprayings. In using Paris green even as here recommended, it is well to first experiment on a small portion of the tree to note what the effect is on the foliage; if the foliage is burned the amount of Paris green should be reduced.

An exchange very truthfully says: "Whips are undoubtedly good things in their places, but the hands of some people that drive horses is not the place for them. How frequently it occurs that horses are whipped for being afraid of some object. The man who does this is a fool, and should be declared by law from ever driving a horse. Fear of the object which he has had no opportunity to examine and become familiar with, combined with terror of the pain inflicted by the whip, and associating the two together, will render the horse more terror-stricken than ever when he next encounters the object of his dread."

## THE OLIVE IN THE SOUTHWEST.

Olive oil is now being shipped by the ton from the Salt River valley of Arizona and the business is on the boom. The entire valley is being dotted with olive orchards, and at this season of the year the trees are covered with thousands of tiny star-like buds, which will soon be followed by the fruit formation, which when matured on the trees will amount to hundreds of pounds of fruit. Olives remain on the trees until they are thoroughly ripe before they are picked to have the oil squeezed and pressed from them.

When the olives are ripe it requires a large number of hands to pick them, for the work must be done quickly. This is usually done by spreading large canvas sheets around the trees, upon which the pickers throw the olives as they are plucked off the branches. Once they are picked the fruit is carried to the crushing machine, which breaks the fruit up much as apples are crushed for cider. The pulp is then put into a machine which presses the juice from it, which runs off into a tank, where by force of gravity the oil proper rises to the top and is skimmed off and put away for several months before it is bottled ready for the market. It requires about seventy-five pounds of fruit to produce a gallon of oil.

When the weather is favorable everything about the farm should be set in order before the time comes to go to the farm work in real earnest. The yard should be raked and all trash burned up. The trash in the garden should be gathered up and everything gotten ready for early planting, and especially should everything be gathered up and burned, in the form of trash which is found in the orchard.

## IGNORANCE.

In the century before Christ, the prophet Hosea said, "My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge." The same idea runs through some of Huxley's lay sermons. Negligence, indolence and filth are the offspring of ignorance, and the filth diseases, typhoid fever, diphtheria, cholera and the like take on their epidemic form in places where the laws of health are ignored. That the London of today is healthful, while two centuries ago it was the plague spot of the world, comes from the increased knowledge of her rulers and people.

One farmer, by carelessness and filth, may start the swine plague that may sweep to other herds and soon become epidemic. Until the mass of dairymen have clear knowledge of the laws of sanitation we must expect disease among our cows. No farmer is excusable who neglects to furnish pure water, pure feed and healthful, clean, airy quarters for his farm animals.

## WILL HAS ROMANTIC HISTORY.

One of the Many Strange Documents Preserved at Somerset House.

In the heart of London, facing on one side of the famous thoroughfare known as the Strand, and on the other looking on the Thames, is situated Somerset house, once a private palace, but now devoted to various departments of the inland revenue of Great Britain.

Perhaps the most interesting government department in Somerset house is that devoted to the filing of wills, and as might be supposed, the collection is immense, varied and extraordinary, ranging from the will of Shakespeare himself (containing practically the only known autograph of the world-renowned poet), right down to mere curiosities in wills, such as those carved on the lid of a desk or contained within secret cabinets or scrolls. There are wills leaving immense sums to cats and dogs; wills written in human blood. But the most interesting one has quite a romantic history.

It is the will of a British official who died in Cairo of the plague. Before his death he took care to prepare his will upon parchment procured from the skin of a freshly killed goat; but as he handled this skin himself it was thought later on that the will might have the power of transmitting the dreadful plague from which it was written. Accordingly, after having been passed from hand to hand with somewhat disastrous results in the way of plague and death, the will was put into a bottle of spirits. Arrived at Somerset house, the will was read to the next of kin and deposited among the archives of the department.

## Treat All Alike.



New York has not yet risen to the dignity of shoe shining "parlors," and Gothamites, great and small, patronize the street stands. The New York World artist has here sketched James J. Hill as the finishing polish was placed on his shoes.

## The St. Peter's of Asia.

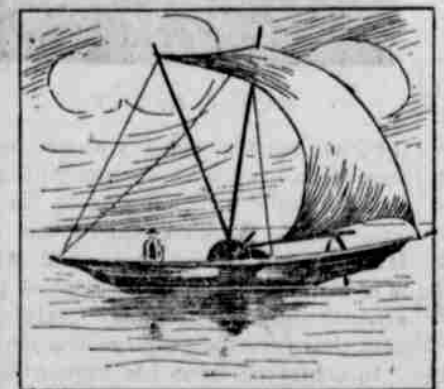
The most imposing and awe inspiring edifice in Lhasa is the great palace and abode of the Dalai Lama. This is a veritable acropolis, rising four hundred feet above the roof tops. This palatial monument to Buddhism is composed of a series of square structures and temples, grouped one above the other. A central building of red sandstone, thirteen stories in height, is the official residence of the incarnate boy ruler of Tibet, said to be about twenty years old. This is styled the St. Peter's of Asia, surpassing even the Vatican in spaciousness, containing more than three thousand rooms, innumerable temples with domes of gold. The other edifices contain the quarters of the high dignitaries, officials, priests and religious personages. During the great celebrations and fetes twenty-five thousand can be accommodated within the inclosure.

## Repaired the Family.

The following is a literal copy of a bill recently sent by a cobbler to a Yorkshire, England, squire:

Squire Knowle to S. Watson, Cob- bler.	s. d.
Clogged up Miss.....	10
Tapt Master.....	8
Heep tapt and bound up Madam.....	11
Mended up Miss.....	2
Heel tapt Master.....	8
Lined bound and put piece on Madam.....	1 00
Stitched up Miss Kitty.....	3
Souling the Maid.....	3
Putting piece on Master.....	2
Total.....	5 12

## To Cross Atlantic.



In a small boat like this a bold Moorish sailor will attempt a lone voyage from the Mediterranean to America during the coming summer.

## Marked Turtle Recaptured.

George S. Gillette of Milford, Conn., and his son captured a turtle and, making a close examination, found on its shell D. N. C. 1844. These are the initials of David N. Clark of the same town, an energetic old gentleman now in his 83d year.

# THE ODD CORNER

## Rhyme and Reason.

There isn't any reason for the flowers blooming sweet.  
To wither at the good-day or be crushed beneath our feet.  
There isn't any reason for the sky to be so blue.  
Nor for the sunbeams to be dancing where the leaves their shadows strew.  
The bee is making melody in cadence long and low.  
The birds are lightly singing 'as they hurry to and fro;  
And joy is set to meter in the lazy summer time.  
There isn't any reason; there is nothing, only rhyme.

The river as it ripples on its journey to the sea.  
Makes music that we cannot sing; yet sweet as it can be.  
The rustle of the tree tops as the zephyr wanders by.  
Awake the woods to answer with a long, melodious sigh.  
And when the stars are gleaming and the moon is shining bright  
A thousand minstrel voices softly echo through the night.  
And no one understands the spell that's cast throughout the clime.  
There isn't any reason; there is nothing, only rhyme.

—Washington Star.

## Herding Sea Lions.

In the sea lion rookeries of the Alaskan coast some curious stampedes are seen. At certain seasons of the year the Aleuts have a drive of "seelitchies," as the lions are called. It is generally begun in September or October to gather in a supply of winter meat.

At night when the sea lions are lying in the sand above high water the natives start their hunting. Armed with sticks, clapping bones and guns, they creep down to the water's edge and carefully get between their game and the sea, and at a given signal rush with yells and all manner of noise at the victims.

The terrible noise awakes and stampedes the sea lions, each one rushing in the direction in which its head happens to be pointed. In this way some go inland and a few escape to the water.

The stampede ends disastrously for those that head inland. The ungainly creatures are driven by cries and shouts to the houses of the hunters. There stakes are placed in the ground about them, forming a sort of corral. To the posts streamers of cloth are fastened, and the foolish sea lions are afraid to approach the fluttering things.

Other catches are added until the herd corralled numbers two and three hundred, and then the final march is taken up. The sea lions are liberated from the corral and driven in the direction of the Aleut village, ten or twelve miles away, the journey taking from one to two weeks.

## Density of Population.

According to an exhaustive statistical work by a German, the population of the world to-day is 1,503,300,000. The average density of population is about 25 persons to one square mile, and the distribution among the continents is as follows: In Europe, 392,244,000 people, or 100 inhabitants for each square mile; in Asia, 819,550,000 inhabitants—45 to a square mile; in Africa, 140,700,000 inhabitants—13 to a square mile. North America, including the West Indies, Mexico, Central America, Panama, as well as the United States and Canada, is credited with 105,714,000 inhabitants—13 to one square mile.

## Heifer Catches Fish.

John Sutphin, a Franklin Park, N. J. farmer, asked the police to-day to help him find a pet heifer which had strayed away from his farm.

He declared she was a great fish catcher, and frequently would go to ponds on the farm, stand motionless for a time in the water near the bank, then suddenly thrust her head in the water and bring up a small fish in her mouth.

On the advice of the police, and with their aid the shores of the Raritan river were searched. The heifer was found watching for fish near the landing-bridge.—New York Tribune.

## Has Relic of Jefferson Davis.

When Jefferson Davis was captured, nine silver dollars were found upon him. They were given to W. C. McCoy, an engraver, to be marked as souvenirs. For his work one of them was given to him. He engraved it with his son's name and gave it to him. The coin was found in the till of F. C. Richter, a merchant, at Columbus, O., and an advertisement brought knowledge of it to its owner, William McCoy of Pittsburg, Pa., to whom it has been sent. It was lost or stolen thirty-three years ago.

## Captured Six Baby Foxes.

Will Lemery, employed on the farm of Allen Flint in Braintree, saw a fox a few days ago with a rabbit in its mouth. He watched it disappear into a hole, and going back to the house persuaded Perkins Flint to join him in the hunt. They dug out the hole into which the rabbit was taken and brought to light a family of six little foxes, which they are at present bringing up by hand with gratifying success, the old ones to all appearances having fled that part of the country.—St. Johnsbury Republican.

## Young Gulls Seaside.

A sportsman at Moosehead lake found some young gulls, too small to fly, and took them into his canoe. The birds at first seemed to enjoy the novel experience, but soon became as seasick as any landsman. After each had sacrificed his latest meal to the sea, the sportsman took pity on them and put them back into the water, where they at once settled down as well and contented as if they had never left it.